

recognition as the recipient of the third annual Guiding Light Philanthropy Award. I am proud to call Jerry not only a constituent and fellow Tempe resident, but also a friend. The philanthropic efforts of individuals like Jerry help strengthen our communities and our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO SHAWN HATCH

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shawn Hatch of Massena. Mr. Hatch deserves our congratulations and gratitude for his work to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project.

Beginning in May, Shawn spent his summer vacation rollerblading 3,107 miles from Massena to Los Angeles in an effort to support American troops wounded in combat, and raised more than \$16,000 through his efforts. Shawn's recent efforts remind us all that we must work to support our troops every day of the year.

Just as our soldiers pledge to leave no man or woman behind, Shawn has carried on that promise, inspiring many in New York's North Country communities to support the Wounded Warrior Project and give back to those who have sacrificed so much for our nation.

Shawn represents the drive and determination that America's veterans, military personnel and their families contribute to the security and progress of our country each and every day. Again, I congratulate and thank Mr. Hatch for his extraordinary journey in support of our veterans. His accomplishment is something truly remarkable and sets a wonderful example for the rest of us.

CONGRATULATING MARK T. BECKER FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF DUTY IN AERIAL FLIGHT AS AN AIRCREW MEMBER IN THE VIETNAMESE CONFLICT

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Corporal Mark T. Becker of the Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462. Mr. Becker dutifully served the United States while abroad in Vietnam and deserves such commendation.

Corporal Becker and his fellow members of the Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 set off aboard the USS *Okinawa* on April 29, 1975. Corporal Becker served as an aerial gunner on a UH1E Huey Helicopter that participated in Operation FREQUENT WIND. This mission was a humanitarian emergency evacuation of Americans, Vietnamese and Third Country Nationals from Saigon in the Republic of Vietnam.

Corporal Becker assisted pilots by maintaining a constant surveillance for other enemy aircraft and hostile fire. This was an exhausting and troublesome task due to reduced visibility caused by darkness and inclement

weather. Corporal Becker made several flights over hostile territory all the while displaying absolute discipline and rare professionalism in following the binding rules of engagement.

Operation FREQUENT WIND resulted in a huge success for United States forces. A total of 1,373 Americans and 5,595 Vietnamese and Third Country Nationals were evacuated by helicopter in a two day span. Corporal Becker's skill and steadfast devotion to duty while exposed to ground fire, anti-aircraft fire, and surface-to-air missiles contributed significantly and directly to the accomplishment of his unit's mission and the overall success of Operation FREQUENT WIND.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the impressive and courageous actions of Corporal Mark T. Becker. It is an honor for me to recognize his accomplishments and the impact he had on Operation FREQUENT WIND.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF SENATE AMENDMENT 4587 TO H.R. 5283 "HELP HAITI ACT OF 2010"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 5283 and the Senate Amendment 4587 that is "to provide for adjustment of status for certain Haitian orphans paroled into the United States after the earthquake of January 12, 2010." I would like to begin by thanking Congressman FORTENBERRY for introducing this resolution, as it is so important for the United States to normalize the immigration process for the adopted Haitian orphans after the tragic January earthquake. The Haitian orphans that were adopted by American families after the earthquake should not have to wait in legal limbo to become permanent residents of the United States; there were obvious extenuating circumstances that prevented the adoptions from being finalized in Haitian courts.

Without the passing of the Help HAITI Act of 2010, Haitian orphans that have fortunately been adopted by welcoming American families face a two-year limbo with fewer legal protections, ineligibility for critical resources, and at the very worst, a forcible return to the ravaged country of Haiti if something unexpected were to happen to the adoptive parents. The Haitian orphans are currently awaiting crucial paperwork that will provide them with basic resources, such as allowing them to receive health care and to enroll in school. These children have already suffered the tragic loss of their families in Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake—we should assist in any way we can to expedite this adoption and immigration process. In doing so, we can help these families begin their new lives in the United States.

I am a strong proponent of this resolution, because it will allow the Haitian orphans to become legal permanent residents and eventually to gain U.S. citizenship. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this because it is an important resolution in which we can stand together and support the orphaned children in their adoption process. There are over one thousand children who are subject to this legal limbo—that is far too great of a number

of adopted children who must wait two years for permanent resident status. Additionally, this resolution will help minimize the staff, monetary, and other resources demands for the Department of Homeland Security's United States Citizenship and Immigration Service.

At this point in time, the people of Haiti are in desperate need of international assistance. We have a responsibility to prevent the evacuation of these orphaned children because of a legal technicality. The people of Haiti are suffering now, more than ever, with the devastating earthquake of January, Hurricane Tomas of October, and now the cholera outbreak that is threatening the lives of millions. The cholera outbreak that emerged within the Artibonite region on October 21 has now resulted in more than 14,000 hospitalizations and tragically more than 900 deaths. The children who were fortunately adopted in the wake of the January earthquake should not have to face such a dire humanitarian crisis. The Help HAITI Act will do exactly that; it will expedite and normalize these orphaned children's journey to a new family. In the same vein, the United States should be helping its neighbors in need with humanitarian assistance, and additionally working hard towards preventing any more unnecessary deaths.

With the passing of this resolution, the orphaned children from Haiti will be able to securely begin their lives in the United States. This bill will assure a normalization of the Haitian children, and will allow their status to be adjusted to permanent resident. Furthermore, the Help HAITI Act of 2010 will provide legal certainty and protections for these evacuated Haitian orphans, because it removes an obstacle for their adoptive families. This is an important bill for the families across America who have opened their homes and welcomed the children who were in special need of a family after the January earthquakes.

A TRIBUTE TO THE GREATER OWENSBORO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce. In August of this year, the chamber was selected by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives, ACCE, as the 2010 Chamber of the Year.

This award is a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication of the employees, members and volunteers of the chamber as well as the Owensboro community.

The Chamber of the Year award recognizes up to four chambers of commerce each year for their dual roles in creating and leading both businesses and communities.

The chamber's advocacy role in creating the Chamber Leadership Initiatives for Northwestern Kentucky, C-LINK, alliance and the Owensboro Buys It! program are significant reasons the chamber was chosen for the award.

C-LINK includes 12 chambers in the region and has been a leading proponent of Interstate 69 in western Kentucky. Owensboro Buys It! was started in 2009 to spur local commerce and teach small business members